

What is claimed is:

1. A sheet feeding apparatus comprising:

(a) a sheet feeding roller for feeding an uppermost sheet of stacked sheets one by one by coming into contact with the stacked sheets;

(b) two air outlets through which air is blown toward both sides of an upper part of the stacked sheets in a horizontal direction perpendicular to a sheet feeding direction; and

(c) a floatation suppression member provided between the two air outlets and the sheet feeding roller with respect to the sheet feeding direction and spaced apart from an upper surface of the stacked sheets for suppressing floatation of the sheets.

2. The sheet feeding apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an elevating means for raising and lowering the stack of sheets and a sheet surface sensor for detecting a height of the uppermost surface of the stack, wherein the sheet surface sensor is disposed adjacent to the sheet feeding roller, and the floatation suppression member is

located between the two air outlets and the sheet surface sensor in the sheet feeding direction.

3. The sheet feeding apparatus of claim 2, further comprising lateral adjusting members movable in a direction intersecting with the sheet feeding direction for adjusting both lateral positions of the stacked sheets, wherein the lateral adjusting members each comprises the air outlet and a fan for blowing air through the air outlet used as a blowing nozzle.

4. The sheet feeding apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sheet feeding apparatus comprises a cover to which the floatation suppression member is mounted so that when the cover is closed and opened, the floatation suppression member is movable between an operating position and a retracting position, respectively.

5. The sheet feeding apparatus of claim 1, wherein the floatation suppression member is a rotatable roller.

6. The sheet feeding apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a sheet surface sensor for detecting a height of

the uppermost surface of the stack, wherein the sheet surface sensor comprises a holding member for rotatably holding the sheet feeding roller, a shading member integrally formed on the holding member and a photocoupler between which a leading end of the shading member is interposed, and wherein the floatation suppression member is located between the air outlets and the sheet surface sensor in the sheet feeding direction.